

WGN Radio, June 16, 2008

(WGN-AM) - The 1994 Assault Weapons Ban expired four years ago, but North Shore Republican Congressman Mark Kirk would like to see it reinstated.

He wants the sale, possession, or transfer of semi-automatic, high capacity firearms to be illegal. Kirk said the old assault weapons ban worked.

"We had a 66% drop in crimes involving assault weapons. Weapons designed with only one purpose, to kill human beings," Kirk said.

Richard Pearson of the Illinois State Rifle Association said the drop in crime reflected the increasing number of people allowed to carry concealed firearms.

"What happened during that time Rep. Kirk talked about was that Concealed-Carry legislation went through in most states," Pearson said.

Pearson added hunters would be affected by a re-born assault weapons ban.